

## GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FALÉOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Res. 497.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from America Samoa?

There was no objection.

Mr. FALÉOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to first thank again my colleague from New Jersey for his participation in managing the other side of the aisle on this proposed legislation. I thank the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, the gentleman from California, Mr. TOM LANTOS, for his leadership and for his support of this legislation. Especially I want to thank my good friend and colleague, the distinguished senior ranking member, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, for her authorship of this human rights resolution.

With passage of this measure, Congress will shine its spotlight on the brutal suppression of the Muslim Uyghur people by the Chinese Government, and the despicable retaliatory actions of the Chinese Government against the leading Uyghur human rights voice, Rebiya Kadeer.

Similar to the Tibetans, the Turkic Muslim Uyghur have long sought to protect their cultural survival in the face of the Chinese Government-supported migration of the Han Chinese to the Uyghur homeland. Chinese authorities severely restrict economic and educational freedoms for the Uyghurs, regularly destroying books and closing places of worship.

Most trials of Uyghur prisoners are held in secret and many political prisoners are routinely executed without the knowledge of their families. Thousands of Uyghur political prisoners are held without charge or even trial and are routinely abused or tortured.

Mr. Speaker, the People's Republic of China continues to brutally suppress even the slightest attempts of peaceful political, religious and cultural expression of the Uyghurs in the Xinjiang Province. After the attacks in the U.S. on September 11, the People's Republic of China has used the pretext of the war on terrorism to justify these severe human rights violations in Xinjiang and routinely labels the Uyghurs as terrorists and as splitists.

When the Uyghur people found their human rights voice in Rebiya Kadeer, the Chinese Government immediately moved against her and sentenced her to 8 years in prison. They arrested her while she was on her way to meet representatives of our Congressional Research Service.

After international lobbying efforts, the Chinese Government finally released her from prison. They told her that her children would pay a steep

price if she continued to lobby for human rights in Xinjiang.

When you carry the hopes and dreams of your entire people on your shoulders, it is impossible to be quiet in the face of such brutal oppression. Upon arriving in the United States, Rebiya continued her human rights work through the International Human Rights and Democracy Foundation and as president of the Uyghur American Association and the World Uyghur Congress in Munich, Germany.

Mr. Speaker, the Chinese Government held to their word and arrested her sons in Xinjiang. Her daughter was placed under house arrest. Using the pretext of a tax investigation to strip the family of all the remaining possessions and business interests, one son was fined \$12,500 for tax evasion. Another was sentenced to 7 years in prison and fined \$62,500. Yet another was sentenced to 9 years in prison on April 17, 2007, for secessionism.

The Ros-Lehtinen resolution before us, Mr. Speaker, also raises the human rights of Uyghur Canadian Huseyin Celil. He was recently convicted by a Chinese court to life imprisonment on bogus charges. The Canadian Government has been denied access to him throughout his trial.

The blatant refusal to accept even the most basic norms of diplomatic conduct and refusing Canadian embassy officials to visit Mr. Celil not only flies in the face of long-established diplomatic norms and standards, but it is a flagrant violation of Mr. Celil's internationally recognized human rights.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to join me in supporting this resolution and in sending the Chinese Government a strong message that it needs to respect the minority rights of the Uyghur people, that it needs to immediately release the children of Rebiya Kadeer and cease all harassment of her family members, and set free Mr. Celil so he can return to Canada to be reunited with his family.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in very strong support of this resolution offered by Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN that asks the Chinese Government to recognize the rights of the Uyghur people and to free the children of Rebiya Kadeer, an extraordinary human rights activist and Uyghur spokeswoman.

At turning points in history, Mr. Speaker, of oppressed peoples, one honest and courageous man or woman often comes to represent the entire people in the eyes of the world. In the United States, on matters related to civil rights, it was the Reverend Martin Luther King. In Burma, it is Aung San Suu Kyi. In India, it was Gandhi. For Chinese Catholics, it was Cardinal

Kung. In Poland, it was Lech Walesa and John Paul II. For Tibetans, it is his Holiness, the Dalai Lama.

For the Uyghur people, deprived of their religious freedom, robbed of their cultural and linguistic rights and marginalized in their own homeland by the government-organized Han Chinese migration, it is Rebiya Kadeer.

For years, Ms. Kadeer was a voice crying in the wilderness, asking the serial human rights abusers in Beijing to recognize the rights of the Uyghur people. In 1999, the Chinese Government imprisoned her. In 2005, it released her into exile into the United States, warning her not to advocate for her people. Her husband and several children were already in exile here. Others remained behind. In 2000, while she was in prison, one of her daughters testified at a human rights hearing that I chaired on the Uyghurs, and she was very powerful in her statement on behalf of her mom.

Even though some of her children still lived in China, this incredibly brave woman established a Uyghur human rights foundation. Now she has become the quintessential symbol of Uyghur aspirations and hopes. She is a recognized leader in the Uyghur exile and human rights communities, a Nobel Peace Prize nominee, and a friend of President Bush after their meeting in Prague this past summer.

Mr. Speaker, we all want Beijing to act like a responsible stakeholder in the world. I make no secret of my conviction that Beijing has a very long way to go. The list of serious human rights abuses committed by the Chinese Government is long. It includes the persuasive systematic exploitation of women and the murder of their children through forced abortion as part of its coercive one-child-per-couple policy. Against the Uyghurs, it is used as a means of genocide, of trying to destroy an entire race and ethnic group of people because of their ethnicity. The imprisonment of democratic dissidents and religious believers remains a serious and pervasive problem in the PRC, as does the marginalization of the Tibetans in their homeland on the roof of the world.

The extensive use of torture has been documented time and time again. Manfred Nowak, the Special Rapporteur for the United Nations, went to China and came back, and his report is literally an indictment. If you are arrested, if a Han Chinese, a Uyghur or anyone is arrested, the way they get a conviction is they torture you. Eventually you sign on the bottom line and you admit your so-called crimes. They have also forcibly repatriated North Korean refugees. Again, there is abuse after abuse after abuse, and the Uyghurs are at the brunt of it.

The oppression of the Uyghurs in their homeland along the Silk Road must be included, Mr. Speaker, on any list of Chinese Government's most serious abuses. In the United States, Ms. Kadeer has ensured that the world does not forget the oppression of the Uyghur